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Date: April 30, 2004

Sonia V. McVean
Sonia V. McVean

PATENT
90606.2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Tsuyoshi KUBOTA et al. Serial No.: 10/743,458 Filing Date: December 23, 2003 For: SPLIT TYPE CONNECTING ROD	Art Unit: 3682 Examiner: Unknown
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COMMENTARY RE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop DD
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Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.56, and in recognition of their duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office relevant information known to be material to patentability, Applicants herewith submit a copy of the prior art listed on the attached Information Disclosure Statement (Form PTO-1449), including English abstracts where needed. The statement is not a representation that all of the information cited is necessarily effective as prior art against the application.

Applicants respectfully request that the disclosed reference be made of record in the subject application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 30, 2004

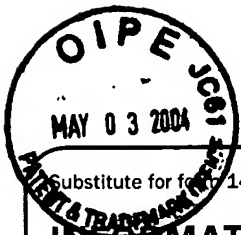


Attorneys for Applicant(s)

Joseph R. Keating
Registration No. 37,368

Christopher A. Bennett
Registration No. 46,710

KEATING & BENNETT, LLP
10400 Eaton Place, Suite 312
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
Telephone: (703) 385-5200
Facsimile: (703) 385-5080



Substitute for form 1449/PTO

Complete if Known

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Application Number	
Filing Date	
First Named Inventor	Tsuyoshi KUBOTA
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	90606.2

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM -YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code 2(if known)			
	1	4,569,109	02/1986	Fetouh	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM -YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number-Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	2	JP 10-128481 (English abstract and machine translation)	05/1998	JAPAN		X
	3	JP 61-27304 (English abstract)	02/1986	JAPAN		X
	4	JP 58-21017 (English abstract)	02/1983	JAPAN		X

Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether of not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered, include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Abstract is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14.